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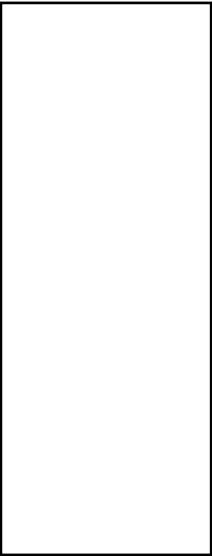


**FIRST
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY OF
PLAINFIELD**

Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)
 724 Park Avenue
 Plainfield, NJ 07060

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Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)

Minister.....David Leonard
 Religious Ed. Dir.....Sue Fertig
 Music Director.....Gail Slater
 Office Administrator.....Louise Polli
 Phone: 908-756-0750 Fax: 908-769-0452
www.fusp.org (see back page for e-mails)

March 2006

UPCOMING SERVICES

March 5 – David Leonard

SIGNING ON FOR THE LONG HAUL
 (second try!)

Many of us are afraid of commitment, for we never know what may change or happen in a few months or a few years. This ranges all the way from not committing to attend a Sunday service in February because it might snow, to not “settling down” and getting married out of a concern for being hemmed in beyond a future you can envision. We want our freedom and our flexibility. But there’s a price for them. We risk never finding a depth of connection and purpose that can only come with signing on for the long haul. This is as true of our connections to religious community as it is with our personal lives.

March 12 — David Leonard

**THERE’S NOTHING WRONG WITH
 CLOUD EIGHT**

Usually we want it all, and we want it to be perfect. But that has to be some other world, not the one in which we actually live. Happiness in this life means enjoying small blessings and praising quiet graces—without regret about the failures of perfection.

March 19 – David Leonard

**REGARDING EACH OTHER
 WITH EQUANIMITY**

It is sometimes said that all major religions have some moral principle similar to the Golden Rule. This may be true, but there are important differences of emphasis and interpretation among these principles that express a greater (or lesser) degree of sensitivity and respect. Equanimity may be the deepest and most helpful of these interpretations

CANVASS SUNDAY—CHILDREN BEGIN IN SANCTUARY

March 25 — David Nowlin

BLUE DUCKS

Martin Luther worried that many preachers might not be talented in public speaking or adequately trained. The final result would be that everyone produced their own sermons, their own whims. "We shall have sermons on "Blue Ducks"! This lay homily may or may not be on Blue Ducks. It may or may not be on "Fulfilling the Promise"

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Update on “Sharing the Plate”

Generous members and friends of FUSP have made our plate sharing program a great success. From eight shared collections, we have contributed over \$3,300 to social outreach through organizations that represent UU values, including:

- Integrity House (recovery from substance abuse)
- El Centro Hispano Americano (legal services, ESL and citizenship classes)
- UUA Hurricane Relief Fund (rebuilding after Katrina)
- FUSP's Food Pantry (hunger issues)

On the Sundays when we share FUSP's collection has increased an average of \$58 per Sunday over the comparable Sundays from the prior year.

We will continue our program in April. We are seeking your recommendations for Plainfield and central New Jersey not-for-profit organizations as recipients of future shared collections.

We look forward to including:

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield, which builds low-income housing.
Newborns in Need, which provides care for sick and needy newborns in crisis

What are your favorite local charities? What types of services and initiatives would you most like to support? Please email Karen Hawkins (KLavroff@yahoo.com) or see me during coffee hour after any service to share your thoughts.

Personnel Ministry News

Consistent with our UU values FUSP is committed to the ongoing professional growth of our staff, Minister David Leonard, DRE Sue Fertig, Music Director Gail Slater, and Administrative Assistant Louise Polli. Like most organizations, FUSP conducts annual performance evaluations to support staff development. In these evaluations we acknowledge strengths and valued contributions to the life of our congregation as well as areas for growth. Our professional staff wants to do the best job that they can. Open, constructive feedback makes that possible.

We want to enrich our evaluations and support our professionals by involving the entire congregation in this year's process.

We are therefore actively seeking your input and observations of our professional staff. If you have experiences to share, please email Vice President Karen Hawkins (KLavroff@yahoo.com), or see me during coffee hour after any service.

Newsletter Notes

April Deadlines

Print/Advertising : Mar 12, by 12:00 noon

Email: Mar 17, by 5:00 p.m.

Please note: The new website is coming along, (Great job to all of those involved, especially Alex, Louise and Karin!) but remains a work-in-progress. Until otherwise announced, all submissions should be submitted via as usual.

An additional appeal—I will be unusually busy the weekend before the April Newsletter is mailed, so PLEASE submit all items on time!



McCutchen
FRIENDS HOME
a Caring Community for Seniors

Independent Apartments
Residential Living
Nursing Home

Lori Reading, LNHA
Executive Director
(908) 755-8600

www.mccutchen.org



Sign up for eScrip, and the church will receive 1% of all of your credit card purchases! Go to www.escrip.com, and sign up indicating "First Unitarian Society of Plainfield" as the donation organization, and apply for their Visa credit card. If you need help, or if you don't have Internet access, call Ralph Braskett.

ACT IV's 2005 - 2006 SEASON

Casting Call:

ACT IV's next production is INHERIT THE WIND, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee (no, not THAT Robert E. Lee).

This is the play that has its genesis in the events of the famous Scopes "monkey" trial, one of the most outstanding dramas of our time, and, unfortunately, all too relevant in today's political milieu.

In addition to the major roles, many cast members are needed for jury and crowd scenes, so if you're worried about learning lines, this is one you can still appear in.

Auditions are Tuesday, March 14; Wednesday, March 15; and Sunday, March 19 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Parish Hall. If you can't make any of these dates but would still like to participate, call the director, Cass Cochrane. Many are needed, and this is a really exciting play!

Performance dates are: June 16, 17, 18 & 23, 24, 25.

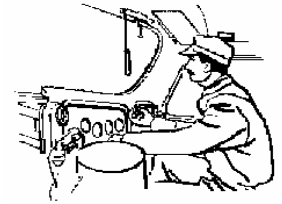
COMING ATTRACTIONS:

May 12 - 21, 2006: INHERIT THE WIND: a timely courtroom drama inspired by the Scopes trial -- all too appropriate at this time

ACT IV welcomes production help (with sets, costumes lighting, makeup, props, etc.), as well as potential actors. Call Barbara VanSavage, Chair, to volunteer, or for more information.

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

David Leonard, Minister



What do ministers do when the Sunday morning service is snowed out? Probably enjoy it! But when our service was cancelled on February 12th, I spent the morning the same way many of you probably did: by shoveling out! Usually gangs of young men come down the street soliciting work. This time I had decided to take them up on their offer, but I guess they couldn't get out of their own houses, and I was left to my own.

I'm getting too old to do such a heavy job all at once, so I broke the task into six segments spread over two days. The first thing was to get the car cleared off. I estimated that we got from 18 to 20 inches of snow where we live, and I didn't want people to think we had an SUV parked in our driveway! The car looked that big. By 10 o'clock I had completed this aspect of the task, but the driveway itself was only a quarter shoveled.



If the service had not been cancelled, I may well have had a heart attack trying to get to church on time! But by Tuesday I'd had enough and was quite content to let the sun and 45 degree weather do the rest.

The other thing many of us ministers do on such occasions is to use the same sermon later. This I will do on March 6. But it is taking some rewriting, since references to Valentines Day (among other things) need to be placed in a different context. That will work itself out, and I will be ready to give you my original snow job then.

I routinely observe the following office hours:

Tuesday mornings and first and third Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:30

This will vary in December—probably I will be in the office on the third Thursday, and I may skip school on Tuesday the 27th. These are not my only church office hours, of course. Appointments can be arranged for any mutually agreeable time, and I am available at home for phone calls between 9 AM and 9 PM, Sunday through Thursday. You are *not* "bothering me at home" during my home working hours. Please feel free to call. But I like to take Fridays completely off.

David Leonard's sermons are available on the web at:

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vze8k1ax/>

LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

ONE MAN'S FAMILY - by Peter Jones

Dear Folks

A few days before the most recent meeting of the Board of Trustees the following message went to the members of the Board, and to David Leonard and Sue Fertig.

We are faced with another difficult decision in this year of tough choices. As you know from what Art Lieberman has been telling us, in addition to an ongoing deficit of about \$10,000 which has built up from previous years' shortfalls, we anticipate a shortfall in the current year's budget of about \$4,500 - \$5,000.

The Executive Committee has been discussing this matter recently in the hope that we would have a proposal to make to the entire Board for this coming meeting. We do, in fact, have a proposal for which we would like the support of the entire Board of Trustees and of the "senior" staff, whose opinions we and the congregation at large value.

In a continuing effort to be fiscally responsible guardians of the finances of FUSP and in the hopes that such drastic actions will make it clear to the congregation just how tough things have gotten, we believe that we need to reduce the budgets of several committees for the current fiscal year.

If these reductions are agreed to now, they can be publicized in the newsletter as the canvass drive is kicking off, and may help to provide some support to the suggestion that we need to dig more deeply to achieve, if not financial security, then at least financial stability.

Art is sending out this month's Finance report, which will include the suggested reductions. Please give them serious consideration before this Wednesday's meeting.

Many thanks for continuing to work on the difficult issues.

The Board has reluctantly decided that the following reductions need to be made in the current budget - for fiscal year 2005-2006; despite the fact that the congregation approved these expenses as part of the year's budget at our last annual meeting, our income has not met expectations and we are therefore compelled to make these changes:

Religious Education	- reducing by \$2,000
Property	- reducing by \$1,000
Membership	- reducing by \$500
Music	- reducing by \$300
Publicity	- reducing by \$200
Worship	- reducing by \$200
Committee on Ministry	- reducing by \$200
Outreach and Caring	- reducing by \$100
Trustees' Discretionary	- reducing by \$100

(Cont'd—Next pg.)

(Continued from page 16)

and visits to him at school, along with some financial support for books, school supplies and other miscellaneous items. We will continue to develop this idea and welcome input and support.

TAKE A STAND INITIATIVE - At the suggestion of David Nowlin, the Social Justice Committee has requested 15 minutes at the Annual Meeting June 11 to give the congregation an opportunity to vote to take a position on one social justice issue, for example, the death penalty. If we can reach an acceptable consensus and agree, as a congregation, to take a public stand, we would then explore avenues to express our position, for example, hanging a banner on the church, thereby lending our group support to important movements for social change. This topic will be discussed at the March meeting. Hope to see you there!

-Katherine Watt, Social Justice Chair

An Appeal From Small Group Ministry

All the Small Ministry Groups are asked to do a service project during the year. The Wednesday morning group is a geriatricly challenged group of women who hire others to do their cleaning and repair work. So we weren't about to paint the new kitchen but are concerned about the appearance and functioning of our church building. We have been studying the possibility of a new sexton over the past few months.

The group looked at job descriptions, called other churches and job agencies, and talked with people who hired people to work for them. The church needs someone to do small maintenance work as well as clean our facility. We decided that \$1200 a month was a reasonable amount to pay for someone to work part time on two or three days a week and especially a day just before Sunday. We feel that reliable supervision by someone in the church is important.

Members of our congregation will see from the Board of Trustees report on Membership and the budget for the Pledge Canvass that others agree that a sexton is necessary. Please help by telling the Board that you agree and will increase your pledge to support a sexton.

Alice Logie, Group Leader, Joan Sweet, Sally Young, Linda Wiltz, Audrey Richards, Sylvie Heinzer, Angela Perun and Jean Heacock

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

NEXT MEETING - Saturday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Stevens Room. Topics will include fundraising/outreach for the lecture series and choosing a social justice issue to present for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

FILM SERIES - The next documentary, *Howard Zinn - You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*, will be screened March 17 in the Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m., following a potluck at 7 p.m.

PAT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK - At a recent Board meeting, Karen Hawkins presented information about money raised through the plate-sharing program she coordinates. Since May 2005, the congregation has donated \$3,222 to local organizations including El Centro, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, Integrity House, Elijah's Promise, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, and our own Food Pantry. **Well done!**

Contact Karen with suggestions for other charities with whom we can share the FUSP plate.

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY - Five speakers are confirmed for next year's lecture series, representing the **People's Organization for Progress**, **Union County Peace Council**, **Edison Wetlands Association**, and the New Jersey chapters of the **A.C.L.U.** and the **United Nations Association**.

FUNDRAISING - Two fundraising ideas are in the works: a Hip Hop Contest and a Street Art Contest. Both would be free, potluck lunch events, with donations to support the Lecture Series accepted and welcomed. Through fliers handed out after the local schools let out, we would invite the public to participate in each contest, by presenting a short piece of music or painting a sample mural on paper (materials provided by the church). Three judges would be chosen at random from audience members who are interested in being judges. For the Hip Hop Contest, the three prizes would be small cash awards of up to \$25. For the art contest, the prize could be space on the new fence in the FUSP parking lot for three large, colorful murals, painted and signed by the winning local artists.

Further brainstorming welcome, and thanks to Bernice for some initial logistical suggestions.

OFF TO COLLEGE PROJECT - Pearl Thompson, FUSP member, chef, and instructor at Elijah's Kitchen - has proposed that the congregation support an Elijah's Kitchen student as he goes on to higher education. This would involve primarily moral support - letters, phone calls

(Continued on page 17)

LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

(Cont'd from previous)

As you can see, the reductions have been made across the board - affecting all aspects of our church life. Our finances are not in good shape. Despite the hard work by many to maintain things, we are struggling. We have much going for us - a belief in our message, a caring for each other that extends to the world around us, a willingness to work very hard for that in which we believe. Unfortunately, these are not enough to survive. The crass consideration of money is always before us.

Please support the canvass to continue the work of our Society and to keep us strong in the coming year. Please support the efforts of the Board of Trustees and many others to ensure that FUSP shall survive for many years to come.

For all of us,

Peter

FUSP - Mission Statement

New Mission Statement to be adopted by the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield as of February, 2006:

"We are a welcoming, caring community fostering individual spiritual and intellectual growth. Guided by our Unitarian Universalist Principles, we further the causes of racial and social justice, and promote peaceful living and respect for all existence."

The result of the voting by FUSP members in January, 2006 supported changing the Mission Statement to the statement above. Thank you to all those who participated in this process.

- FUSP Board of Trustees

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Learning for Life

The spring session of "Learning for Life" will begin on March 13, continuing for 10 Mondays. This 35 year old Plainfield community program meets at the United Presbyterian Church located at 525 East Front Street and offers classes in art (drawing and painting), music appreciation, gardening, and a discussion of "Issues and Answers". There is a class called "Trips without Tickets" where members experience the pleasure of a variety of trips shown on slides.

Our own David Nowlin is giving a philosophy course. In addition this year we have TWO new offerings: there is to be a course on Law and another on Exercise. The exercise class will be based on the concepts of Tai Chi.

Registration will be on March 6 from 9:30-11 A.M. Following the two morning classes, from 10 A.M. -12 A.M. a brown bag lunch with coffee and tea available allows for a social time before the afternoon "town meeting" at which there are speakers on diverse topics of interest. For more information, or to obtain a brochure, please contact Joan Sweet.

The Racial Justice Committee

...invites you to join them in an excursion to the landmark exhibition, "**Slavery in New York**", at the New York Historical Society on Saturday, March 4.

This highly recommended exhibition will give you a deeper understanding of the origins of racism in our country. We plan to leave FUSP at 10:00 a.m. and have lunch after our tour.

Please call Carl Heath to reserve your place.

clerk, the store, or the global environment. It does have a lasting impact on me. Living as we do in a world where human impacts are overwhelming planetary systems -- where we are already in "overshoot" in our non-sustainable use of resources and our warping of the climate -- it is essential that we think instrumentally, and weigh the practical effectiveness of our actions.

As the concerned scientists recommend, we need to make the most out of every decision. We must craft personal lifestyles and social structures which are effective in reducing human impacts. But that practical effectiveness will be far richer for us when it is joined with a spiritual centering. Refusing a bag, turning off a light, picking up some litter -- these are spiritual disciplines that inform our awareness of relationships and responsibilities. May you find joy and fulfillment in these little things, even as you also seek large-scale effectiveness.

Shalom!
Rev. Peter Sawtell
Executive Director, Eco-Justice Ministries

Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

March 5, at 11:45 in the Steven's Room

The Green Sanctuary committee will be working on a preliminary action plan for the next couple years. Our action plan should include:

- At least two activities involving worship, spiritual practice, and /or community celebration
- At least two activities addressing environmental justice issues, at least one of which is a year long project involving the entire congregation and collaborating with one or more groups in the broader community
- At least two religious education programs, one for children and one for adults
- At least four activities covering elements of sustainable living, including at least one energy conservation action
- At least two additional activities relating to elements of your choice.

Our action Plan should include time-line targets and identify lead coordinators for each activity.

After developing a preliminary or suggested action plan the committee will be holding meetings with relevant committees to develop a final plan, however we welcome all interested persons who will be affected by these plans to attend this meeting as well. Please familiarize yourself with the results of the environmental audit which can be found on our new website under:

Social justice > green sanctuary. Or contact Heather Brown, for a copy.



Corner

Excerpt from "No Bags, Please" 2/18/2006

No Bag, Please
by Peter Sawtell
Copyright © 2005 - Eco-Justice Ministries

When I meet with church groups, the question of "what can we do" almost always comes up in some form. My answer almost always refers to a book from the Union of Concerned Scientists, *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices*. [Remember our service based on this publication last year? -H.B.] The message of that book distills down to, "don't sweat the choice between paper and plastic bags, and don't agonize over the sort of coffee cups at your church fellowship hour." The scientists, working from hard data about measurable environmental impacts, urge us to make a few really important choices that will have dramatic and lasting effects -- to get a fuel efficient car, sign up for renewable energy, and live in a smaller home close to work.

After reciting the scientists' advice one day, I was challenged by a person that I respect deeply -- a truly wise man, a pastor, a theologian, and a committed advocate for social justice and ecological stewardship. Charles acknowledged the practical effectiveness of the well-researched recommendations, but he also named another sort of effectiveness. Making the choice about coffee cups and shopping bags, he said, is important in raising our consciousness, in defining our perspectives, and in helping us know that we can -- and must -- translate our values into action. Even if there's no discernable difference in the ecological impact between "paper and plastic," it is important for us to make a choice.

I found a similar message in Parker J. Palmer's book, *The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity and Caring*. Palmer draws on wisdom from Taoism to develop the notion of "right action" and intentionality. Too often, he says, we allow others to shape our choices and define our habits, instead of choosing how and when to act. We are more centered in our spirituality when our actions are grounded in awareness and intention.

Palmer also differentiates between instrumental and effective actions. "An expressive act is one that I take not to achieve a goal outside myself but to express a conviction, a leading, a truth that is within me. An expressive act is one taken because if I did not take it I would be denying my own insight, gift, nature."

Sweating the small stuff, calling myself to an awareness of whether or not I need a bag at the store, brings me to awareness about myself and my world. It shapes me as a person of conscience, even if my perfectly-timed "I don't need a bag!" has no lasting impact on the

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lent...a time for Spiritual Practice

On one particular Ash Wednesday back in the 1960's my childhood friend had received her ashes and had accidentally rubbed them off. Normally a rational, well composed girl I was surprised to find her in tears over this. In trying to comfort her I asked why it was so "bad" to have had these ashes rub off, her answer was not in my realm of understanding.

As we come upon the Lent season I again wonder what is Lent, and what it means to me as a Unitarian Universalist parent. I spent some time researching Unitarian Universalist Lent on the UUA website and was rewarded. The idea of

Lent as a spiritual practice came from a sermon written by Rev. Kate Stein Suther entitled "Playing with God." Her definition of spiritual discipline is a conscious means by which we examine, shape, and care for our lives. On the other hand, spiritual practice is a way of working out right relationships through the work we do.

When I was a child I can remember watching my own mother sweeping the kitchen floor. While doing this chore I noticed that she was talking to herself. I thought, who is she talking to? Now, I think it was her spiritual practice, a way of sorting things out, making plans, and of being in right relationship with herself and the world.

The season of Lent begins March 1, with Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days until Easter, April 16th. Many Christian denominations observe this as a time to "give up" something they love or enjoy for the 40 days in order to be closer to God. In other words, engaging in a spiritual discipline through the act of a spiritual practice.

As a Unitarian Universalist parent I see this as great opportunity to open up the conversation to our children about the ideas of spiritual discipline and spiritual practice. I encourage you to share with your children about your own spiritual disciplines and spiritual practices and create new ones together.

May the Season of rebirth and renewal bring you hope and joy,

- Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education

Canvass Corner

A few months ago, I attended the bar mitzvah of a former colleague's son. While I generally feel somewhat uncomfortable about the content of prayers included in Jewish services, I always look forward to the Rabbi's sermon.

At this service, the rabbi's sermon began with a question: "Why do you think businesses often keep the first dollar they earned and exhibit it on the wall?" Several theories were suggested: "for good luck", "so there's some change handy," "to commemorate the business' opening". The rabbi proposed that there is something special about firsts, that it is significant that businesses frame their first dollars, that history commemorates the first time a milestone is achieved, that Abraham was asked to sacrifice Isaac, his first-born son by Sarah, that we usually offer food first to guests before we serve ourselves. He suggested that to offer up or give away a "first" rather than keeping it to oneself is a sign of true generosity and shows a special respect for the recipient.

The rabbi then asked, "When we donate to charity, do we give our first, our best, or do we give what's left over? When there is a food drive, do we pull old cans off our shelves that we decided not to use or do we purchase a few extra items at the super-market? When we give away a coat, do we give one in fine condition or do we give one that we're tired of, that looks too worn for ourselves?"

These questions gave me pause. I had just donated a few jackets to the local realtor's coat drive. One was my daughter's, which she had outgrown and had never worn much since it wasn't quite her style. Another was one of mine, which was several years old and had an increasingly sticky zipper and holes in its pockets. I passed it on with the thought that it was filled with down and would still keep someone warm this winter.

It occurred to me that giving away these coats did not really reflect much generosity on my part. Perhaps it reflected some concern for the environment since I didn't want to add something to a landfill that still had some use. However, it spoke little about my concern or respect for the people who would inherit these jackets. I felt bad about this through the rest of the service, through the elaborate banquet that followed, and even now as you read this.

That day, I learned that while giving is certainly a part of generosity, it is not all of it. Generosity is giving away something that you would use (or maybe even need) if you kept it for yourself because you care about the recipient. When you make your pledge to FUSP this month, please don't think of donating what you won't need or miss. Please think about what this community needs, and be generous.

- Angela Goldman, Canvass Chair

SONGS LIFT SPIRIT – PROJECT SAVES LIVES

**Friday, March 31, 2006, 8:00pm - Church of the Redeemer
36 South Street * Morristown, NJ 07860, (973) 539-0703 Tickets
\$20.**

**Saturday, April 1, 2006, 8:00pm – Unitarian Congregation of Monmouth County * 1475 West Front Street * Lincroft, NJ 07738 Tickets
\$20.**

Canadian folk sensation **Lucie Blue Tremblay** & NJ's own **Olympia's Daughters** together in a two concert series (on 3/31 & 4/1) to **benefit THE BREAST EXAM PROJECT-**

THE BREAST EXAM PROJECT-Teaches self breast exam, which promotes early detection and fast action, and leads to longer survival for breast cancer sufferers.

After witnessing the courage of both men and women battling breast cancer, and after supporting her sister through surgery and months of chemotherapy, songwriter and performer **Lucie Blue**, decided to make a difference in the fight against Breast Cancer.

Using her musical art and passion, **Lucie** has created the "Breast Exam Project." In her Breast Cancer Awareness motor coach, she tours the U.S. and Canada spreading the word about Self Breast Exam to demystify the process and promote early detection. Look for **Lucie Blue Tremblay's** motor coach in your area. For more information about the "Breast Exam Project," please visit <http://www.breastexamproject.org>

New Jersey's Olympia's Daughters, the extraordinary all women a cappella singing phenoms, have become a local favorite, performing at events throughout the northeast including with the '70's singer **Janis Ian** and **Lucie Blue Tremblay**, as well as being featured in a production of the "**Vagina Monologues**." For more information about Olympia's Daughters, please visit <http://www.olympiasdaughters.com>

FINANCE MINISTRY

100% UUA GIVING

Our church's annual dues to the UUA and our district are \$69 per member. These contributions allow our voices to be added to those of 1,000 other UU congregations in North America to fund programs, services and resources that not only directly benefit and strengthen our church's own needs, but also Unitarian Universalism as a whole - issues of international peace, human rights, racial justice, and religious freedom, including supporting marriage equality, campaigning against the Darfur genocide, tracking our Supreme Court candidates.

Of course, we have a moral obligation to "pay our dues." Probably the greatest benefit we have received recently has been with our ministerial and intern minister searches over the past 6 years. Plus consulting on fund raising, membership growth, leadership, ... The list goes on. But our UUA dues didn't. Until this year.

When we pay 100% of our dues - referred to as our "fair share" - we get more than our dollar in return. This year, we notified the UUA and district that we would be paying our entire fair share - the first time in a dozen years. And we have received emails from several levels of the UUA hierarchy thanking us and cheering us on. Not all churches can pay their fair share, and when they do, they get recognized for it. But we will get more than just praises in return. With the fair share, we gain the opportunity to apply for grants, and this spring we will be applying for a Chalice Lighters grant, which would support our new projects we are lining up to help ensure our church's future (sexton, assistant minister, marketing consultant, ...).

However, we need some help from you. Our budget this year calls for a small portion of the total share to come voluntarily from member contributions. If you could contribute \$50, or better yet \$69, towards our goal, we will be satisfying a very important obligation. Please make your check out to FUSP and write "Fair Share" in the memo area of the check. You can mail it to the church or put it into the Sunday plate.

(A special thank you to our secret member who has made contributions almost every month!)

Thank you! - Art Lieberman, Finance Chair

Recycling

There is a box in the Parish Hall where ink jet cartridges, cell phones and laser jet cartridges can be placed. A lot of oil is used to manufacture these objects. We can help the environment and help the FUSP fundraisers by depositing the ink jet cartridges in the box.

What is your office policy? Are they discarding ink jet cartridges? You can put a box by your desk or someplace else marked for ink jet cartridges. The more people are aware about helping the environment the better. Bring the ink jet cartridges to FUSP and help the environment. The proceeds will also help the fund raisers.

Any questions or comments - see Fred Lange

Recycling Center Volunteers Needed

We will be at the Fanwood Recycling Center Saturdays April 15, June 24 and July 22nd. Can you help? Hours are 8:45 AM to 1:00 PM. FUSP will raise a total of \$900 for fund raisers. This will help the environment and help balance our budget.

Please contact Fred Lange if you can help.

Service Auction

Last year we had fun offering dinners, vacation homes and other services. Many people are enjoying the services offered. There is good fellowship as people have a chance to relax and meet other U/U's.

The Service Auction will be May 6th. If you can help call friends and member for services, or contribute a service, please contact Fred Lange.

Talent Show

The annual TALENT SHOW will be April 16th. What is your act?

Contact Allan Reading and let him know. The show will be right after the Sunday service. Lunch will be provided.. Total cost is \$15.00 for the lunch and show. Come and enjoy the company of your friends. Bob Brunnquell will entertain us as the MC.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

March 11th is the date for the next Men's Breakfast. We meet the 2nd Saturday of every month at 9 A M in the Stevens Room We are going to discuss the exercises (physical and mental) and diet options we follow to help slow down the "aging process". Young and old are welcome. Fred Lange and Bob Sommerich (91 years young) will lead the discussion.

FUSP INVESTMENT CLUB

There will be a breakfast meeting of the FUSP Investment Club March 8 at 9:00 AM. The location is the Scotchwood Diner 1934 US Highway 22 in Scotch Plains. We will discuss trends of the marketplace and specific stock/mutual fund recommendations. Please contact Fred Lange if you plan to attend to determine the size of table.

Happy Birthdays



Luca Calligy
Dante Purdue-DeMarco
Iris N. Ivaniuc
Liza Katz
Elsa Leistikow
Isaac Schrum
Jessica Toscano
Alexander S. Zucker

We Love You!

Women's Alliance

Our next meeting is Saturday March 18th in the Steven's Room 10am to noon. We invite all women to attend for a morning of supportive sharing and stimulating discussion.

Our topic for March is a holdover from February which had to be postponed. Gloria Deodato will lead a discussion on the TAO of SEX. Should be interesting.

Come and find out what she has in mind.

Please contact Joan Sweet or Bonnie Rowan if you need childcare.

Note: In response to last month's Men's Breakfast announcement...

With all due respect for the longevity of your organization we would like it to be noted that Women's Alliance predates Men's Breakfast by several decades. First called the Women's Church Home Society and later named Women's Alliance, it was founded in December 1889.

The men's group is still great!

[Editors Note: Here we go! :-)]

Bring-A-Dish

The March get-together will be at the home of Bonnie and Milt Rowan, on March 18th at 6:30pm.

Come and join us for good food and friendship. We would especially love to see new members and friends attend.

Please call the Rowan's to coordinate what you would like to bring. BYO

GAME NIGHT

All are invited to our monthly game night on Friday, March 10 at 7pm. Bring a favorite game, and a beverage or snack to share. Friends of all ages are welcome!